U.S. EXCEPTIONALISM: CHAPTER 3

Matthew Cawvey

Associate Professor

Department of History and Political Science

Erskine College

Office Hours (EB-317): Mon and Wed, 2:00–4:30 p.m.

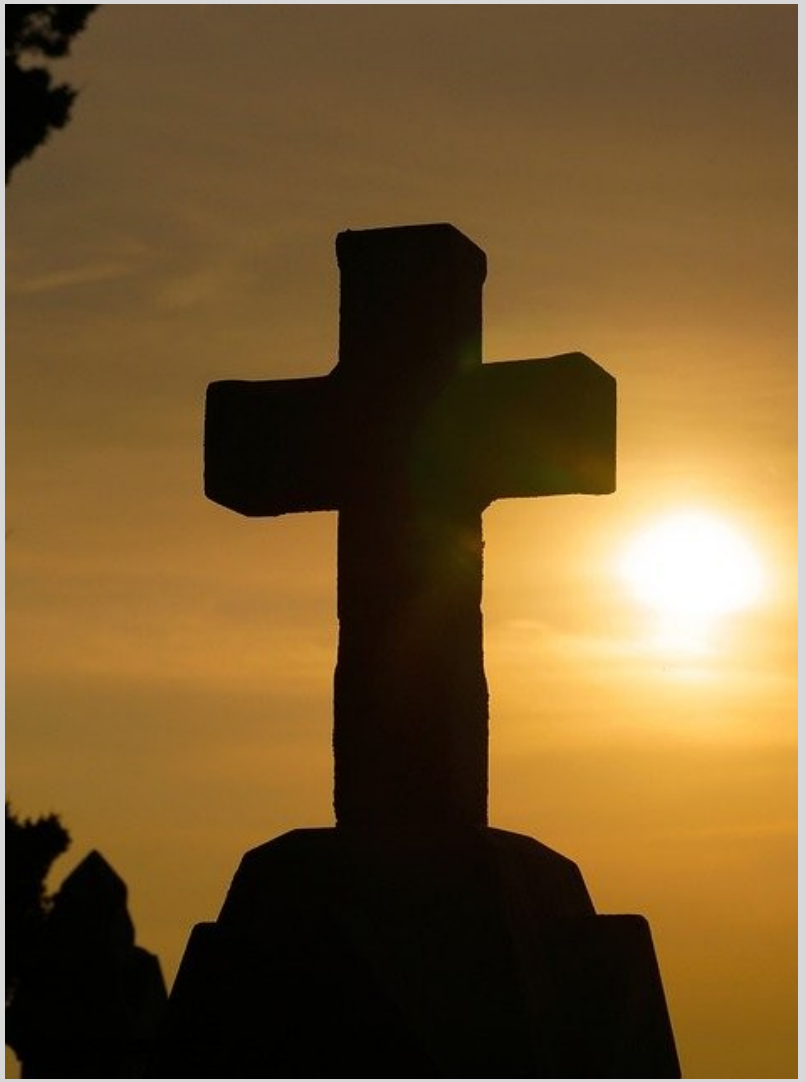
AGENDA

- Devotional and prayer
- Announcements
- Identify differences
- Explain differences

Isn’t it *exceptional ly* awesome to play in the sink?!

DEVOTIONAL AND PRAYER

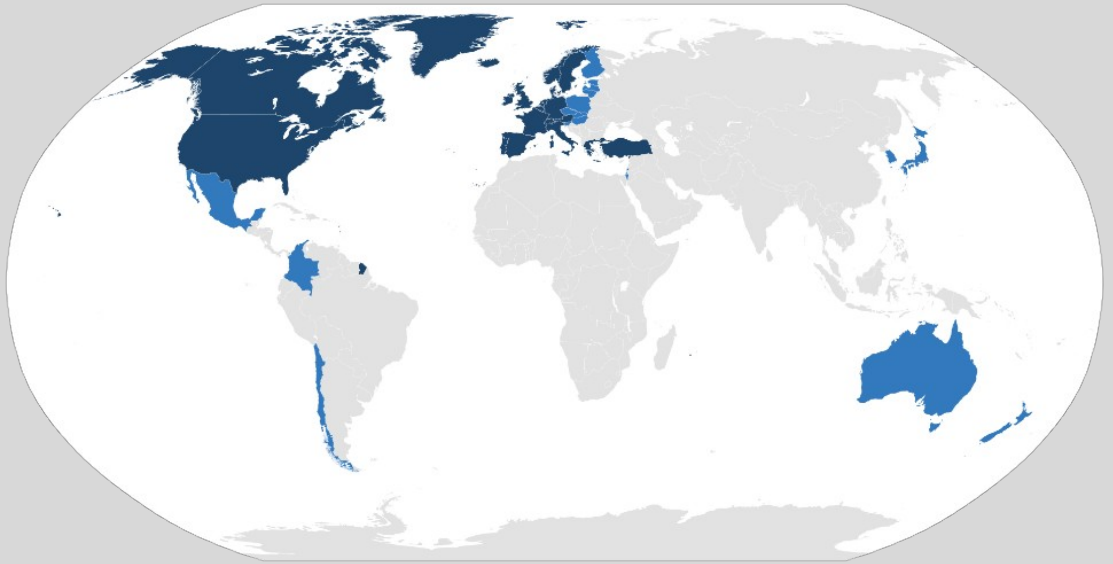
- Distinctiveness and superiority of Jesus
  - Hebrews 1:4 (NIV): “So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.”



BEING A POLITICAL SCIENTIST

- Two of the tasks for political scientists: report and explain data
- Focus on which countries?

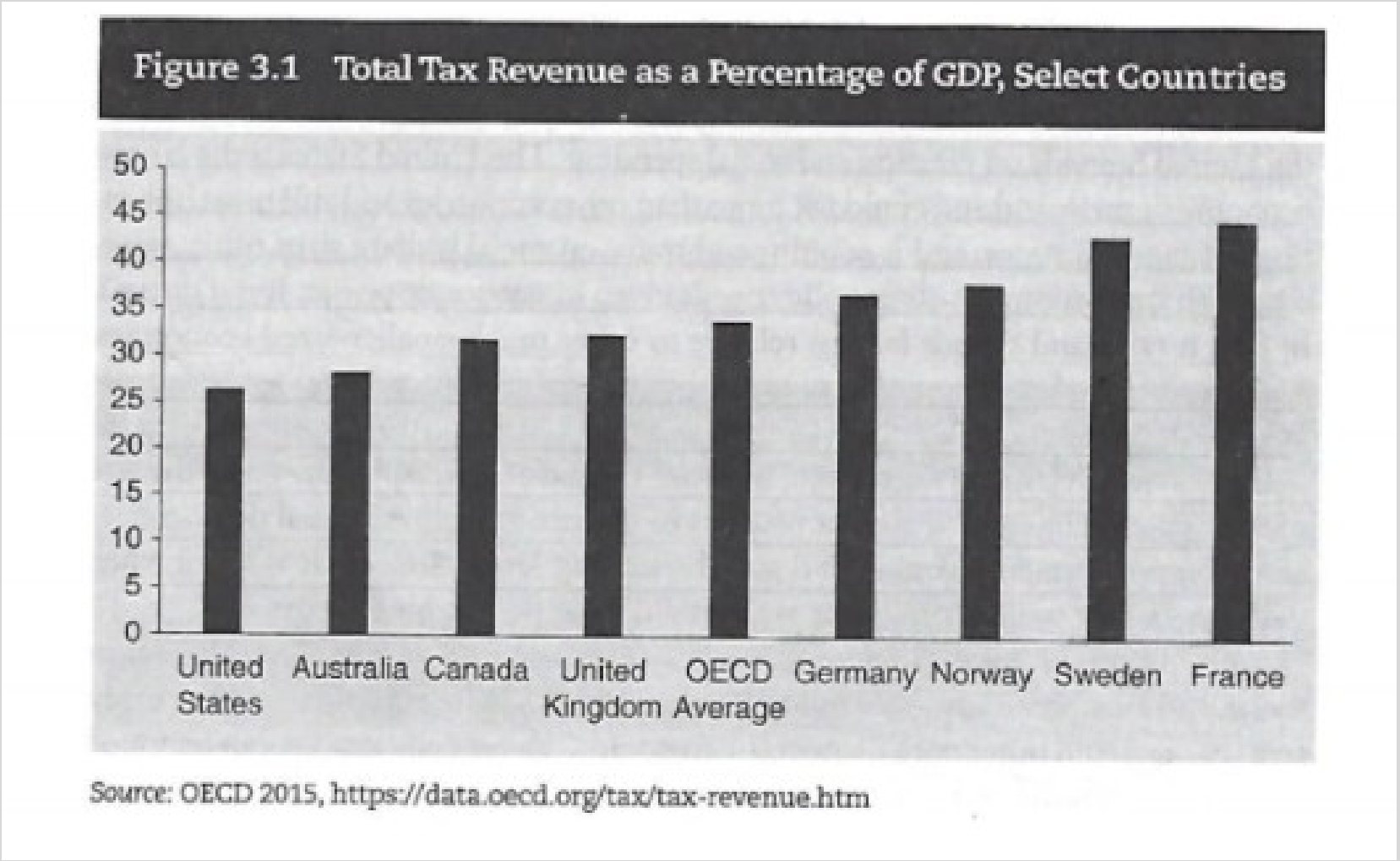
By Source, Fair use, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=45158363



By Cflm001 (talk) - Own work.*Derived from by Emuzesto, released under CC-BY-SA-2.0.*Map derived from as of version 14 August 2014.*Coloured using Inkscape., CC BY-SA 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7623675

Devotional and prayer | **Identify differences** | Explain differences

TAX REVENUE

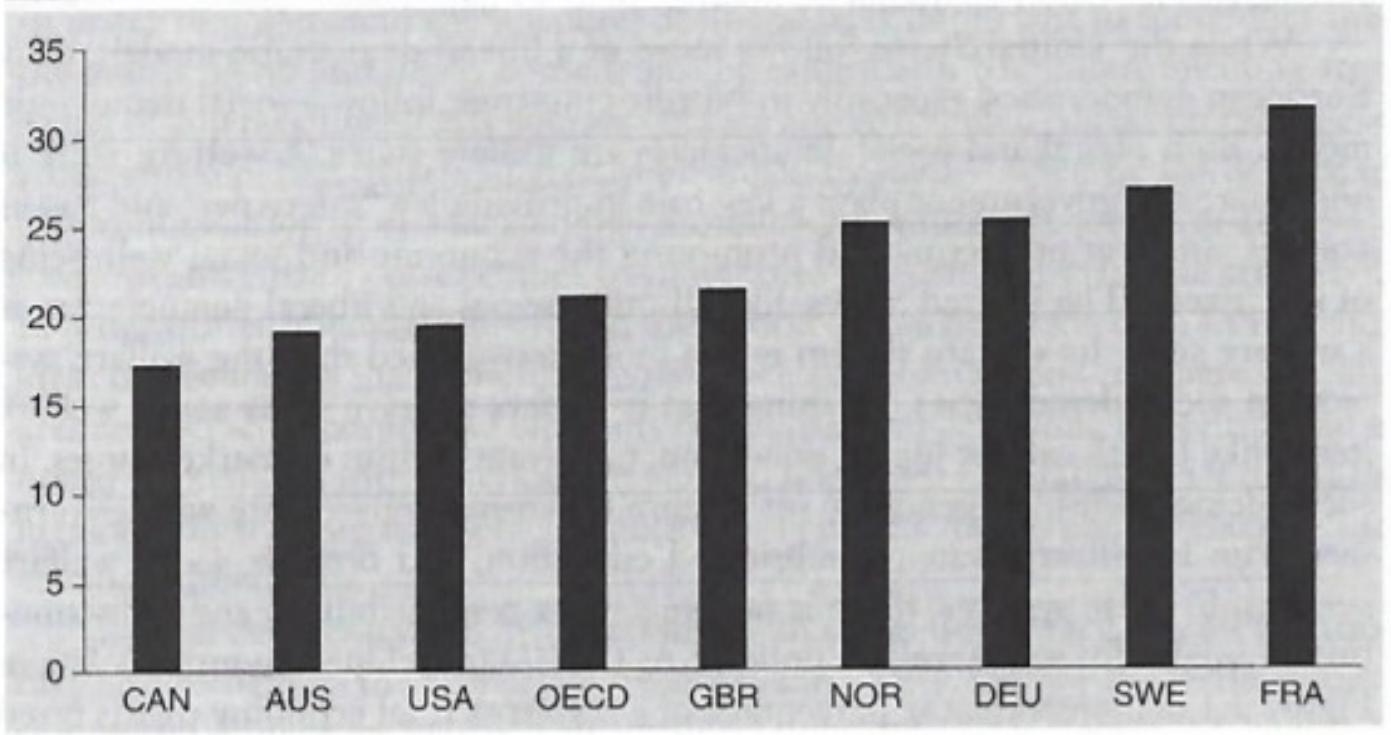


Devotional and prayer | **Identify differences** | Explain differences

SOCIAL SPENDING

- Examples of social spending?

Figure 3.2 Total Public Social Spending as a Percentage of GDP, Select Countries



Source: OECD (2018), Social spending (indicator). doi: 10.1787/7497563b-en (Accessed on March 19, 2018)

Devotional and prayer | **Identify differences** | Explain differences

EFFECTS OF LESS U.S. SPENDING: HIGHER EDUCATION

Country	Education Costs
Germany	Free
France	<$1,000
Sweden	Free
Finland	Free
Netherlands	Approx. $2,500
United Kingdom	Approx. $8,000
Australia	Approx. $5,000
Canada	Approx. $5,000
United States	$8,700 (public 4 year); $21,000 (private 4 year)

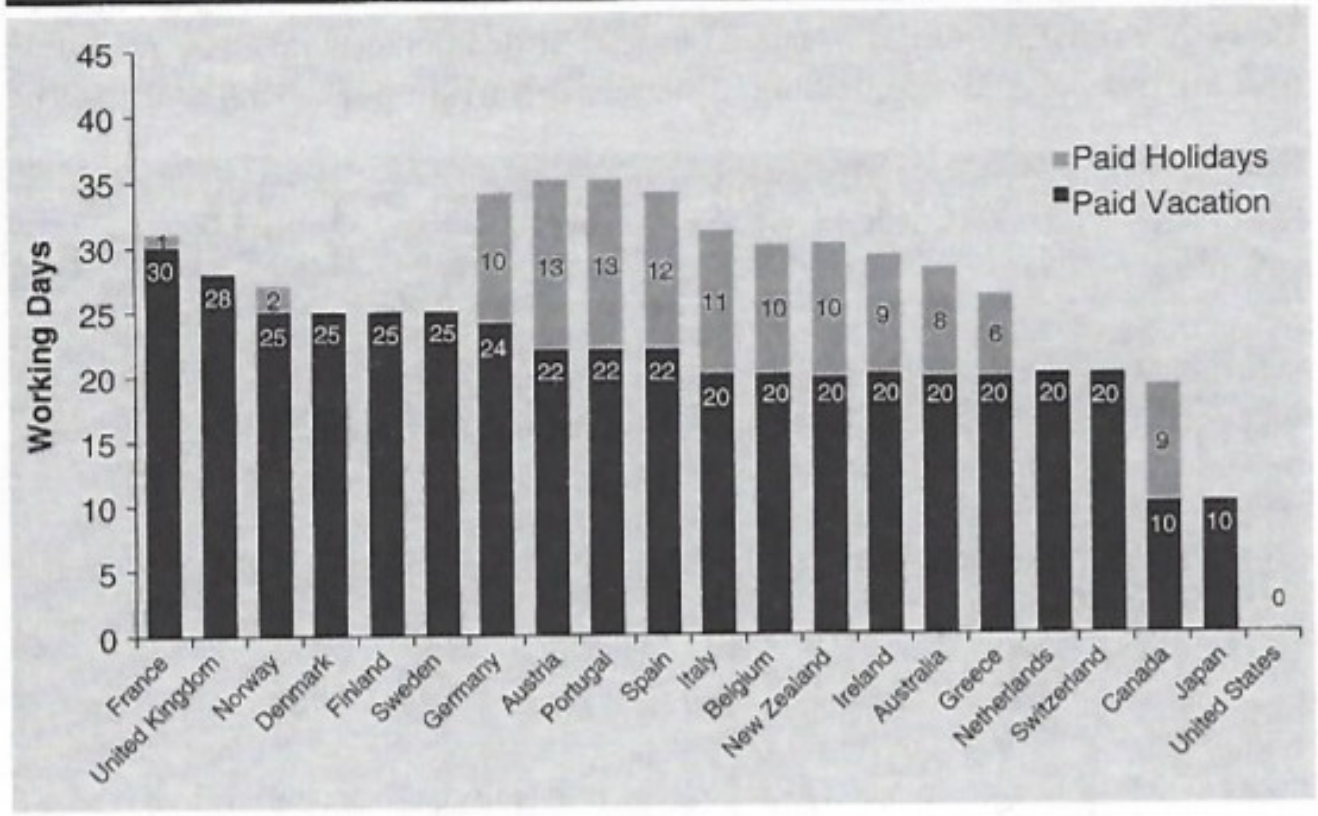
HIGHER EDUCATION

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCtqHwjCPOQ

Devotional and prayer | **Identify differences** | Explain differences

JOB BENEFITS

Figure 3.6 Paid Vacation and Holidays

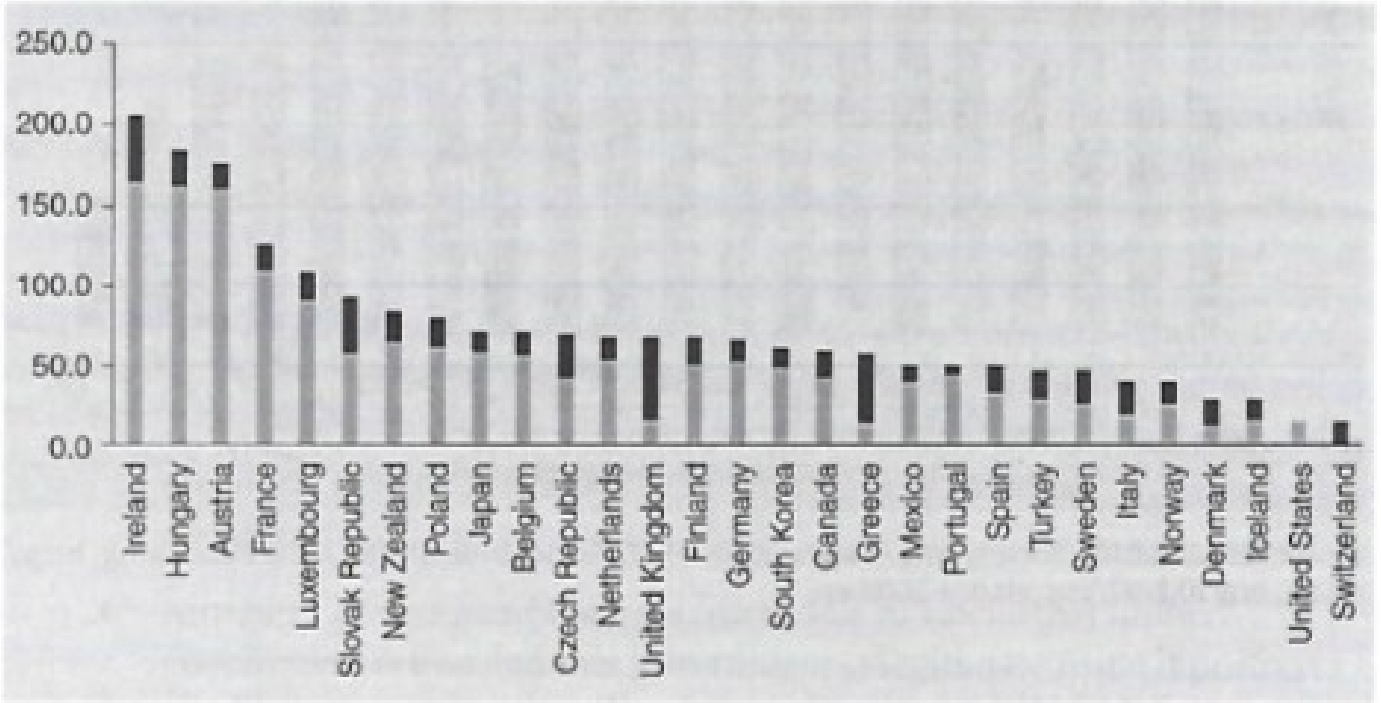


Source: OECD (2010), Society at a Glance 2010: OECD Social Indicators, OECD Publishing, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/soc_glance-2008-en.

Devotional and prayer | **Identify differences** | Explain differences

JOB BENEFITS

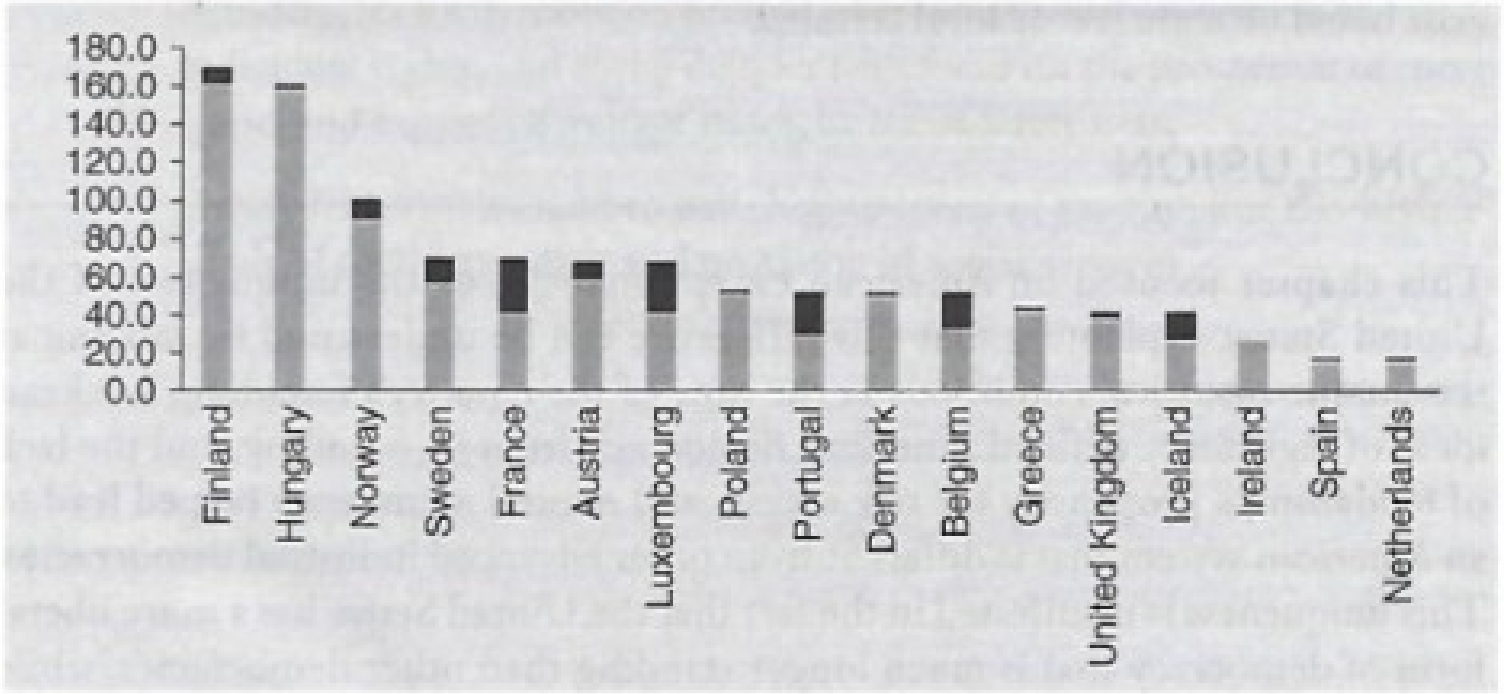
Figure 3.4 Maternal Leave: Weeks Entitlement vs. Weeks Paid, 2016



Source: OECD, OECD Family Database, http://www.oecd.org/els/family/database.htm. The light gray represents paid leave, the dark gray represents number of weeks of leave to which a mother is entitled.

JOB BENEFITS

Figure 3.5 Paternal Leave: Weeks Entitlement vs. Weeks Paid, 2016



Source: OECD, OECD Family Database, http://www.oecd.org/els/family/database.htm. The light gray represents paid leave, the dark gray represents the number of weeks of leave to which a father is entitled. The United States is not on the chart because it does not guarantee paternal leave.

Devotional and prayer | **Identify differences** | Explain differences

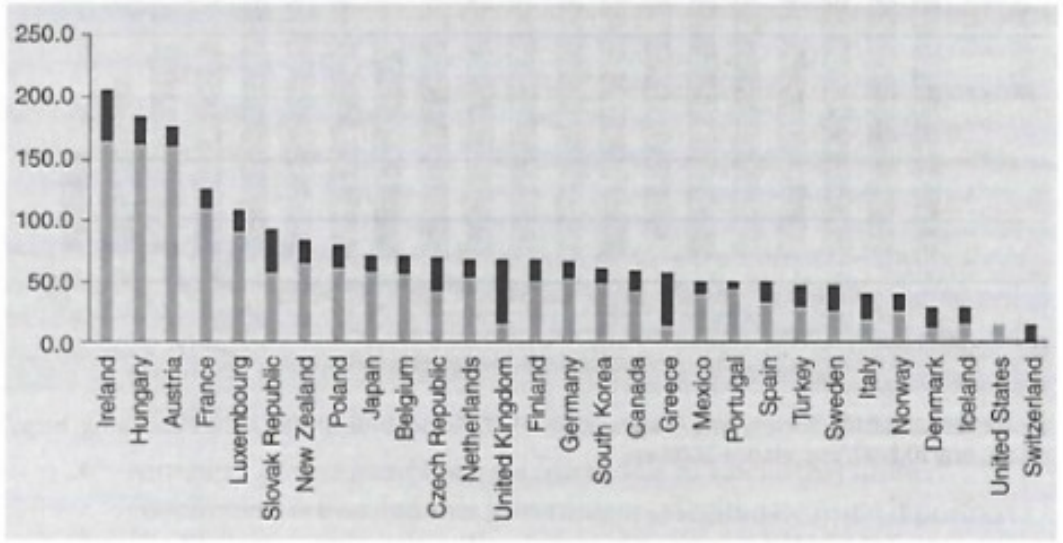
JOB BENEFITS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltv00o3M5XA; see also CNN.com

Devotional and prayer | **Identify differences** | Explain differences

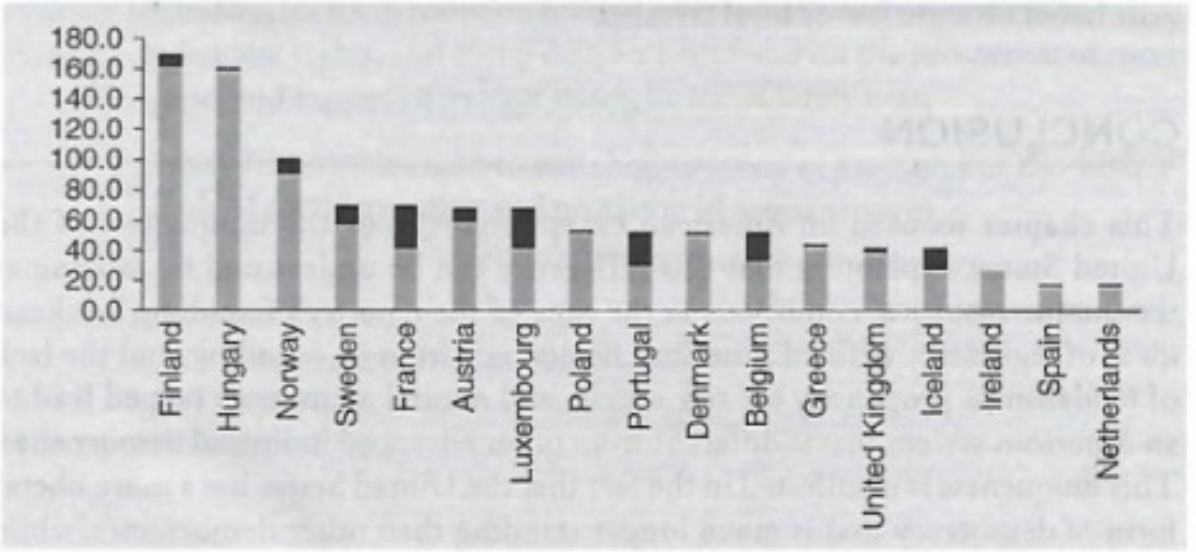
SHOULD CONGRESS HAVE PASSED PAID FAMILY LEAVE?

Figure 3.4 Maternal Leave: Weeks Entitlement vs. Weeks Paid, 2016



Source: OECD, OECD Family Database, http://www.oecd.org/els/family/database.htm. The light gray represents paid leave, the dark gray represents number of weeks of leave to which a mother is entitled.

Figure 3.5 Paternal Leave: Weeks Entitlement vs. Weeks Paid, 2016

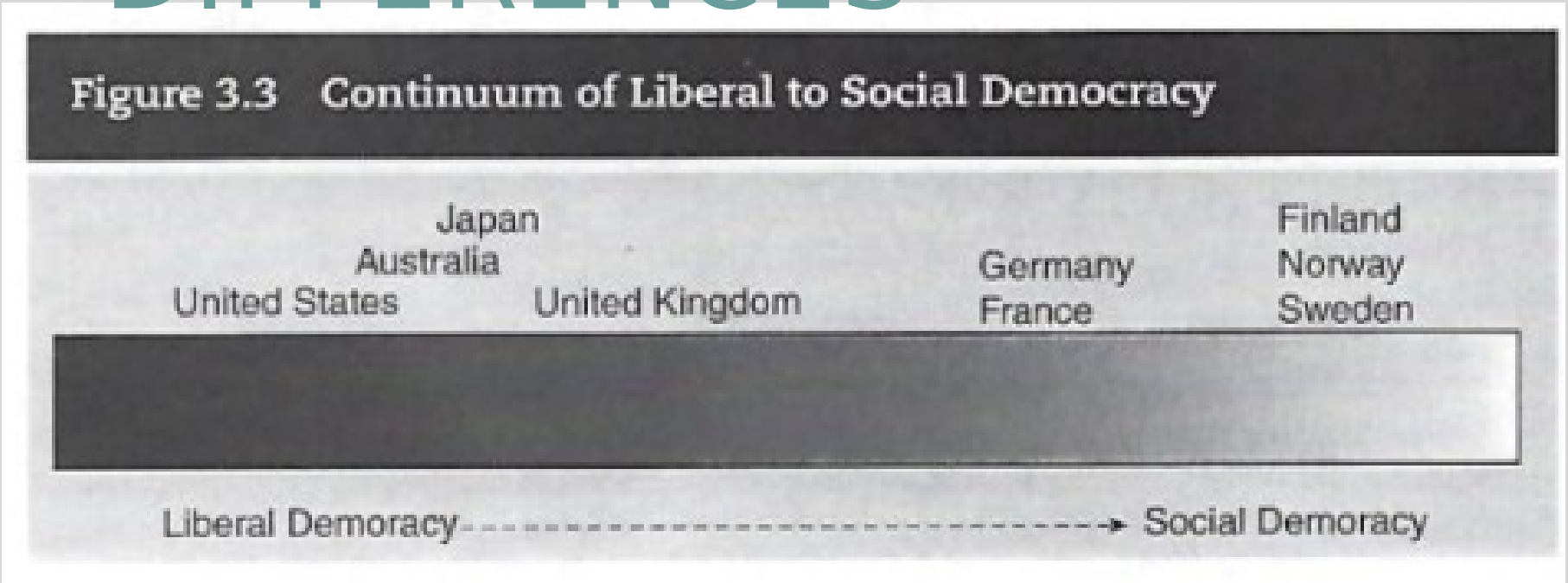


Source: OECD, OECD Family Database, http://www.oecd.org/els/family/database.htm. The light gray represents paid leave, the dark gray represents the number of weeks of leave to which a father is entitled. The United States is not on the chart because it does not guarantee paternal leave.

Devotional and prayer | **Identify differences** | Explain differences

SUMMARIZING DIFFERENCES

- Liberal democracy vs. social democracy
- Additional concepts:
  - Classical liberalism
  - Economic liberalism
  - Equality of opportunity
  - Equality of outcome

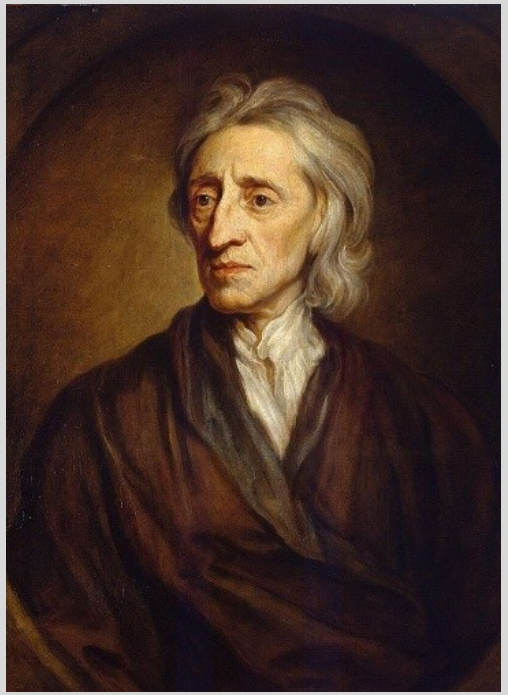


EXPLAINING DIFFERENCES: PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS

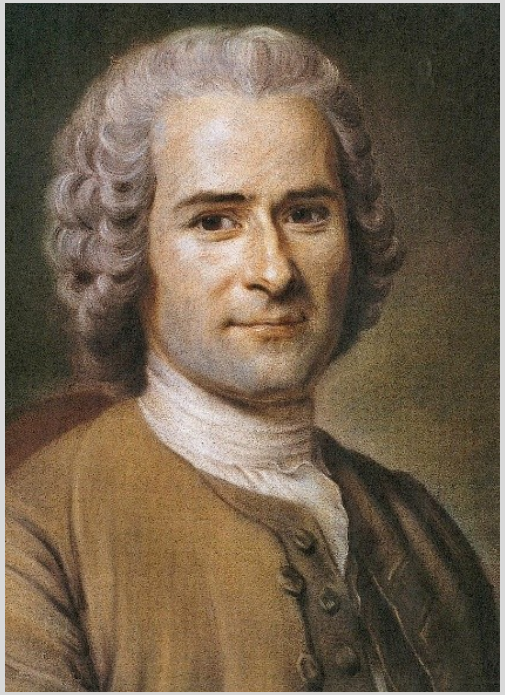
Participation opportunity: In your view, why does the United States tax and spend less than other advanced industrial democracies?

EXPLAINING DIFFERENCES: PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS

- Ideas at founding of democracy
- Locke
  - State of nature/natural law
  - Social contract and goals of government
  - People retained sovereignty
- Rousseau
  - Transfer of sovereignty
  - Common good



John Locke (1632–1704)



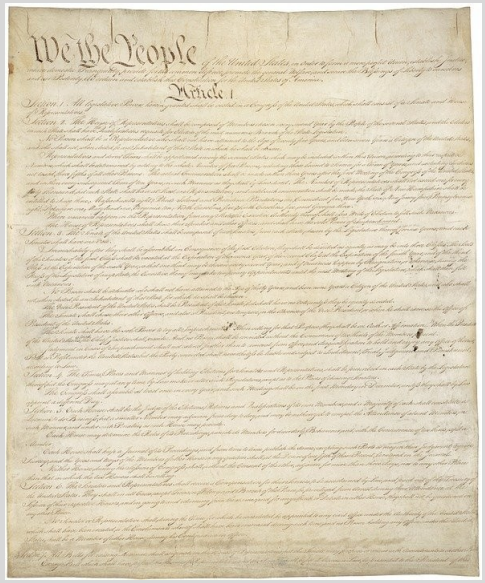
Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778)

For more on Locke and Rousseau, including their ideas about sovereignty, please see Koyzis (2019)

Devotional and prayer | Identify differences | **Explain differences**

WHY GO WITH LOCKE?

By Source, Fair use, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6239907



- Immigration, personality, and culture
- Lack of feudalism and socialist movement
- Why stay with Locke?
  - Constitutional stability
    - Key principles
    - Amendment requirements
  - Path dependence (Pierson 2000)

Devotional and prayer | Identify differences | **Explain differences**

PREPARE FOR EXAM 1 BY TESTING YOUR KNOWLEDGE

True or **False**: The United States is a social democracy.

PREPARE FOR EXAM 1 BY TESTING YOUR KNOWLEDGE

True or **False**: Everything else being equal, a liberal democracy would have less government revenue and expenditures than a social democracy.

PREPARE FOR EXAM 1 BY TESTING YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Whose political ideas are consistent with the following text from the Italian constitution? “The Republic protects work in all its forms and practices. It provides for the training and professional advancement of workers.”

A. John Locke

B. Jean-Jacques Rousseau

C. Neither A nor B

SUMMING UP AND NEXT UP

- U.S. exceptionalism is rooted in commitments to individual effort, individual rights, and limited government. These commitments were made by the American founders, who were receptive to the writings of philosopher John Locke. Several factors explain the start and continuation of these commitments: a political culture of individualism, the lack of feudalism and socialist movement, and the presence of a Constitution that is hard to change.
- Next time: **U.S. political culture**

APPENDIX

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AThIwfYfNrM

- How does the video illustrate a path-dependent argument?
- Do you agree that we should have universal childcare? Why or why not?

Devotional and prayer | Identify differences | **Explain differences**